

QA-592
Bullen-Keller House
112 Laird Benton Road
Stevensville vicinity, Queen Anne's County

Constructed mid-nineteenth century
Private

Located on Kent Island, in Queen Anne's County, the Bullen-Keller House stands approximately six miles south of Stevensville, and about a quarter of a mile east of the intersection of Laird Benton Road and Kent Point Road (Maryland Route 8). The house is a mid-nineteenth-century, two-story, three-bay-wide, wood-frame house with twentieth-century side additions. It faces west, towards Laird Benton Road; the rear elevation overlooks an inlet of the Eastern Bay. A brick smokehouse is situated south of the house. Two twentieth-century outbuildings are also located on the property: a frame shed to the north of the house, and a frame garage to the southwest of the house.

Built in the mid-nineteenth century and expanded in the twentieth century, the house and the surrounding six acres have been the home of farmers and sailors. Its location on Shipping Creek, a tributary of Eastern Bay, made the property desirable for sailors. The tract's small size made it difficult to earn a living farming the land; like many watermen in Queen Anne's County, residents of the house in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries likely combined small-scale farming with work in the maritime industries. Many owners rented the parcel, and the house may have been built as a tenant house.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. QA-592

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Bullen-Keller House

other

2. Location

street and number 112 Laird Benton Road not for publication
city, town Stevensville, MD 21666-3224 x vicinity
county Queen Anne's County

3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Ludlow King, III
street and number 4522 Old Columbia Pike telephone
city, town Annandale state VA zip code 22003

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Queen Anne's County Courthouse liber SM-861 folio 706
city, town Centreville tax map 70 tax parcel 13 tax ID number 04-051998

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
☐ Other: _____

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	Contributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	4
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	0
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> defense	0
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> domestic	0
		<input type="checkbox"/> education	0
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	4
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	0
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	0
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	0
		<input type="checkbox"/> religion	0
		<input type="checkbox"/> social	0
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	0
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	0
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	0
		<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	0
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:	0
			Total
			0
			Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory
			0

7. Description

Inventory No. QA-592

Condition

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Summary

Located on Kent Island, in Queen Anne's County, the Bullen-Keller House stands approximately six miles south of Stevensville, and about a quarter of a mile east of the intersection of Laird Benton Road and Kent Point Road (Maryland Route 8). The house is a mid-nineteenth-century, two-story, three-bay-wide, wood-frame house with twentieth-century side additions. It faces west, towards Laird Benton Road; the rear elevation overlooks an inlet of the Eastern Bay. A brick smokehouse is situated south of the house. Two twentieth-century outbuildings are also located on the property: a frame shed to the north of the house, and a frame garage to the southwest of the house.

Description

Primary Resource

The Bullen-Keller House sits on a level, grassy lot that is dotted with mature trees and shrubs. A few shrubs line the foundation. A gravel driveway runs from Laird Benton Road due west to the front of the house. The Eastern Bay is to the east of house, and trees stand at the property lines.

A two-story, three-bay-wide house with an asymmetrically arranged façade, the Bullen-Keller House is capped by a side-gable roof sheathed with asphalt shingles. Two twentieth-century, shed-roofed, side additions flank the façade. The south addition has a screened porch attached to its south end. The north addition has a twelve-light, wood, bay window. One interior-end, brick chimney with a corbelled cap commands the southern end of the house. The house's wood shingle siding also covers the foundation, which was not visible. A front portico shelters the entry. It has a front-gable roof sheathed with asphalt shingles that is supported by square wood posts. A replacement, six-panel, wood door occupies the entry bay. Façade fenestration comprises six-over-six, wood, double-hung windows on the first story, and two-over-two, wood, double-hung windows on the second story. The windows feature square-edged, wood surrounds and plank shutters.

The Bullen-Keller House was surveyed from the public right of way, and its side elevations and rear were therefore not accessible at the time of the survey.

Secondary Resources (buildings, sites, structures, objects.)

The one-story, one-bay, circa-1850 brick smokehouse is situated about thirty feet south of the house. It is capped by a front-gable roof sheathed with asphalt shingles. Its irregularly coursed American bond is in poor condition, and the bricks are spalling on the west elevation. Four vents are arranged in a diamond pattern in the façade gable end. The smokehouse has a one-leaf, plywood door.

The one-story, two-bay, circa-1930 garage stands about fifty feet southwest of the house. It is a wood-frame structure clad with wood shingles. The foundation was not visible. It has a front-gable roof sheathed with asphalt shingles. A sliding, vertical wood board door occupies the easternmost bay of the façade.

The one-story, front-gabled, wood-frame shed is clad with wood shingles. Its foundation was not visible.

8. Significance

Inventory No. QA-592

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/	<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____

Specific dates

Architect/Builder

Construction dates

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register

☐ Maryland Register

☒ not evaluated

Summary Statement of Significance

Built in the mid-nineteenth century and expanded in the twentieth century, the house and the surrounding six acres have been the home of farmers and sailors. Its location on Shipping Creek, a tributary of Eastern Bay, made the property desirable for sailors. The tract's small size made it difficult to earn a living farming the land; like many watermen in Queen Anne's County, residents of the house in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries likely combined small-scale farming with work in the maritime industries. Many owners rented the parcel, and the house may have been built as a tenant house.

Historical Narrative

In 1851, when Isaac and Josephine Winchester conveyed the property to another large landowner, Thomas Tanner, the six acres already contained a house that was occupied by a tenant, Captain Charles Baseter.¹ The Tanners, who owned many properties, likely lived on one of their other holdings. It is not known whether Captain Baseter continued to rent the house on Shipping Creek after the Tanners purchased it. Baseter likely used the small farm to supplement his diet and income; the presence of the smokehouse suggests that he owned some livestock.

In 1855, Thomas and Elizabeth Tanner sold the property to Mary Elizabeth Bullen, who was married to Samuel Bullen, a merchant on Kent Island.² Historic maps from 1866 and 1877 identify the house's owner as "Mrs. Bullen."³ During the 33 years that Mary Bullen owned the property, there is no evidence that either she or her children ever lived there. In 1870 and 1880, her sons, Joseph and Charles, lived with other families. Mary E. Bullen could not be located in the 1870 Census. In 1880, she and her daughter Mary A. Bullen lived with a friend, James Goodhand, also a farmer on Kent Island.⁴

After the death of Mary E. Bullen, an 1883 land dispute between the two sons, Joseph and Charles, and their sister Mary resulted in a court-ordered sale of the six-acre property on Shipping Creek. The 1888 deed recorded the sale from the court trustee to William B.G. Herbert. William, wife Elizabeth, and son Vitus owned the property for the next 23 years. Both William and Vitus were sailors. In the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, the house at Shipping Creek was located in a community of farmers and oystermen. During this period, commercial oystering and crabbing increased dramatically, a trend that particularly affected Kent Island and areas along rivers and creeks.

¹ See attached chain of title for this and all subsequent deed references.

² 1860 U.S. Population Census, Queen Anne's County, Maryland, District 4, Sheet 20.

³ *J.G. Strong's Map of Queen Anne's County* (n.p.: J.G. Strong, 1866); *An Illustrated Atlas of Kent and Queen Anne Counties, MD*, (Philadelphia: Lake, Griffing & Stevenson, 1877).

⁴ 1880 U.S. Population Census, Queen Anne's County, Maryland, District 4, Enumeration District 62, Sheet 3.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. QA-592

An Illustrated Atlas of Kent and Queen Anne Counties, MD. Philadelphia: Lake, Griffing & Stevenson, 1877.

J.G. Strong's Map of Queen Anne's County (n.p.: J.G. Strong, 1866).

U.S. Population Census, Queen Anne's County, Maryland, 1860, 1880, 1910, 1930.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property	2.33 acres
Acreage of historical setting	6 acres
Quadrangle name	Kent Island

Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000 (7.5 minute)

Verbal boundary description and justification

The property boundary is defined by the current parcel boundaries shown on tax map 70, grid 15, parcel 13, in Queen Anne's County, Maryland.

11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Kathryn Gettings Smith and Gerald M. Maready, Jr., Architectural Historians		
organization	History Matters, LLC	date	November 16, 2007
street & number	1502 21 st Street, NW, 2 nd Floor	telephone	202-223-8845
city or town	Washington	state	DC

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to:

Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Department of Planning
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of

Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. QA-592

Name: Bullen-Keller House
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 1

In 1911, William Breeding purchased the house from Vitus Herbert and probably rented it to a tenant. Just a year earlier, William (a widower), his sister, two daughters, and three Ringgold children, lived together on another farm that he owned on Kent Island.⁵

In 1919, Grace A. Keller purchased the six-acre parcel with frame dwelling house and outbuildings. Born in New York, Grace Keller was the wife of Richard Keller, a farmer originally from Germany.⁶ During the Kellers' ownership, which spanned the period between the two World Wars, side additions enlarged the house and a garage was built.

When Richard Keller sold the property to Cecelia Eareckson in 1945, it contained 7.01 acres. The property changed hands several times over the next 13 years. In 1958, Stuart and Halcyon Hollis subdivided the 7-acre property, and sold 2.333 acres, including the house, to Clyde and Ruth Laird. The Laird Benton Road parcel remained the same size as it changed hands several more times up to the present.

⁵ 1910 U.S. Population Census, Queen Anne's County, Maryland, District 4, Enumeration District 69, Sheet 6-B.

⁶ 1930 U.S. Population Census, Queen Anne's County, Maryland, District 4, Enumeration District 18-7, Sheet 1-B.

Maryland Historical Trust

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Name: Bullen-Keller House
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 2

Chain of Title

9 November 2001	Ludlow King III and Jerome Stovall King, trustees under revocable trust of Ludlow King (1995) to Ludlow King III Liber SM 861, folio 706 2.333 acres; plat—"Map Showing Central portion of 'The Keller Lot' Surveyed for Stuart G. Hollis" by Kastenhuber & Anderson April 1952.
8 March 1996	Ludlow King & Elizabeth Stovall King to Ludlow King III & Jerome Stovall King, trustees Liber TSP 528, folio 42 2.333 acres (survey reference)
9 August 1976	Roy Francis Scott, Jr. to Col. Ludlow King & Elizabeth S. King of Montgomery Co. Liber CWC 108, folio 156 2.333 acres (survey reference)
27 June 1969	Clyde Laird & Ruth W. Laird to Roy Francis Scott, Jr. of Baltimore Liber CWC 42, folio 301 2.333 acres (survey); subject to r-o-w 25 feet wide (on plat) extending along northerly and westerly side of property as means of ingress & egress to property formerly owned by Elliott Buse
4 November 1958	Stuart G. Hollis & Halcyon P. Hollis to Clyde Laird & Ruth W. Laird Liber TSP 43, folio 561 2.333 acre (survey); and also the right to use the road as now used out to the State road
1 February 1949	Herschel J. Strickler, Jr. & Mary Elizabeth Strickler of Baltimore to Stuart G. Hollis & Halcyon P. Hollis Liber NRW 2, folio 450 7.01 acres together with the right to use the road as now used out to the State road; being on Kent Island near the village of Mattapax...survey by Kastenhuber & Anderson, Surveyors, September 4, 1929. Beginning at low water line of ...Shipping Creek and one line of lands belonging to the Claiborne & Annapolis Ferry Co.
17 October 1947	Cecelia N. Eareckson to Herschel J. Strickler, Jr. & Mary Elizabeth Strickler Liber ASG Jr 18, folio 263 7.01 acres [same survey & language of 1949]
11 December 1945	Richard H. Keller to Cecelia N. Eareckson Liber ASG 12, folio 406 7.01 acres Will of Grace A. Keller recorded NSD1:387 whereby she devised tract to husband Richard H. Keller

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Maryland Inventory of

Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. QA-592

Name: Bullen-Keller House
Continuation Sheet

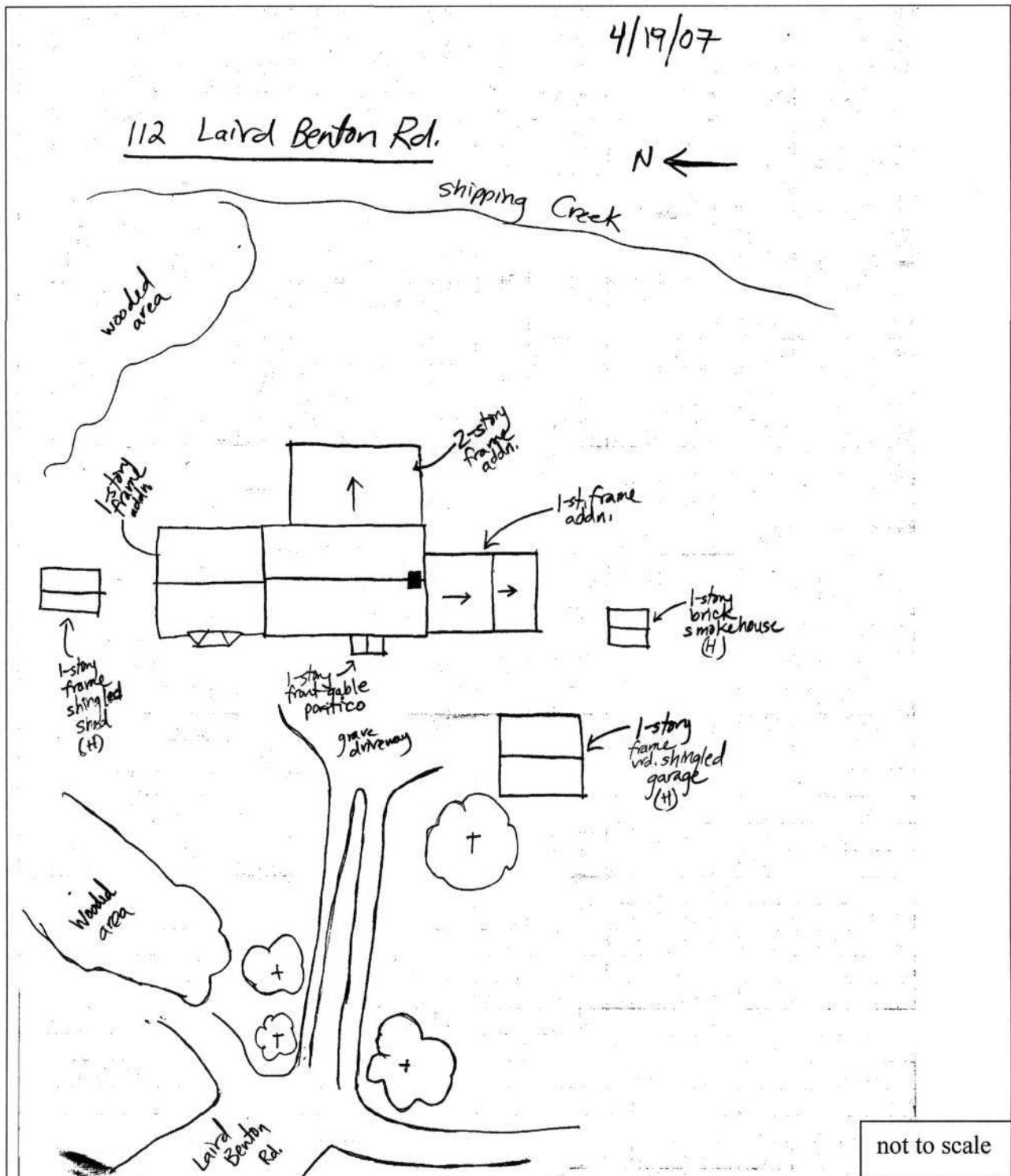
Number 8 Page 3

23 September 1919	J. Waters Russell Realty Company (corp.) to Grace Adelaide Keller Liber JFR 3, folio 146 6 acres
9 September 1919	William E. Breeding to The J. Waters Russell Realty Company Liber JFR 3, folio 67 6 acres Parcel of land improved by a frame dwelling house & necessary outbuildings
5 December 1911	V. Griff Herbert [aka Vitus Griffin Herbert or Vitus H. Herbert per 1919 deed] to William Breeding Liber WFW 1, folio 7 Improvements consist of a dwelling house & necessary outbuildings, containing six acres of land +/-
6 May 1905	Elizabeth A. Herbert to Vitus G. Herbert Liber JEG 7, folio 502 Parcel on left side of public road...& immediately on Shippen or Shipping Creek known as the Bullen Property; 6 acres
15 January 1900	William B.G. Herbert to Elizabeth E. Herbert Liber WHC 10, folio 252 Parcel with improvements where said William Herbert now resides...immediately on Shippen or Shipping Creek; 6 acres.
5 January 1888	B. Palmer Keating, trustee to William B.G. Herbert Liber WD 1, folio 165 Circuit Court 25 Jan. 1883 Joseph T. Bullen & Charles C. Bullen vs Mary A. Bullen—decree to sell land. Parcel where Mary E. Bullen died seized & possessed situate on the lower part of Kent Island in Queen Anne's County immediately on Shipping Creek & containing 6 acres
8 September 1855	Thomas Tanner & Elizabeth Tanner to Mary Elizabeth Bullen, wife of Samuel Bullen Liber JP 2, folio 489 Land on Shippen Creek; 6 acres, together with all singular the buildings improvements, woodways, etc.
18 October 1851	Isaac Winchester & Josephine M. Winchester to Thomas Tanner Liber JT 5, folio 592 A house & lot of ground situate & lying on "Shippen Creek" on KI where Capt. Charles Baseter now resides & adjoining lands of Jacob Winchester & Anna M.G. Lynch; about 6 acres

4/19/07

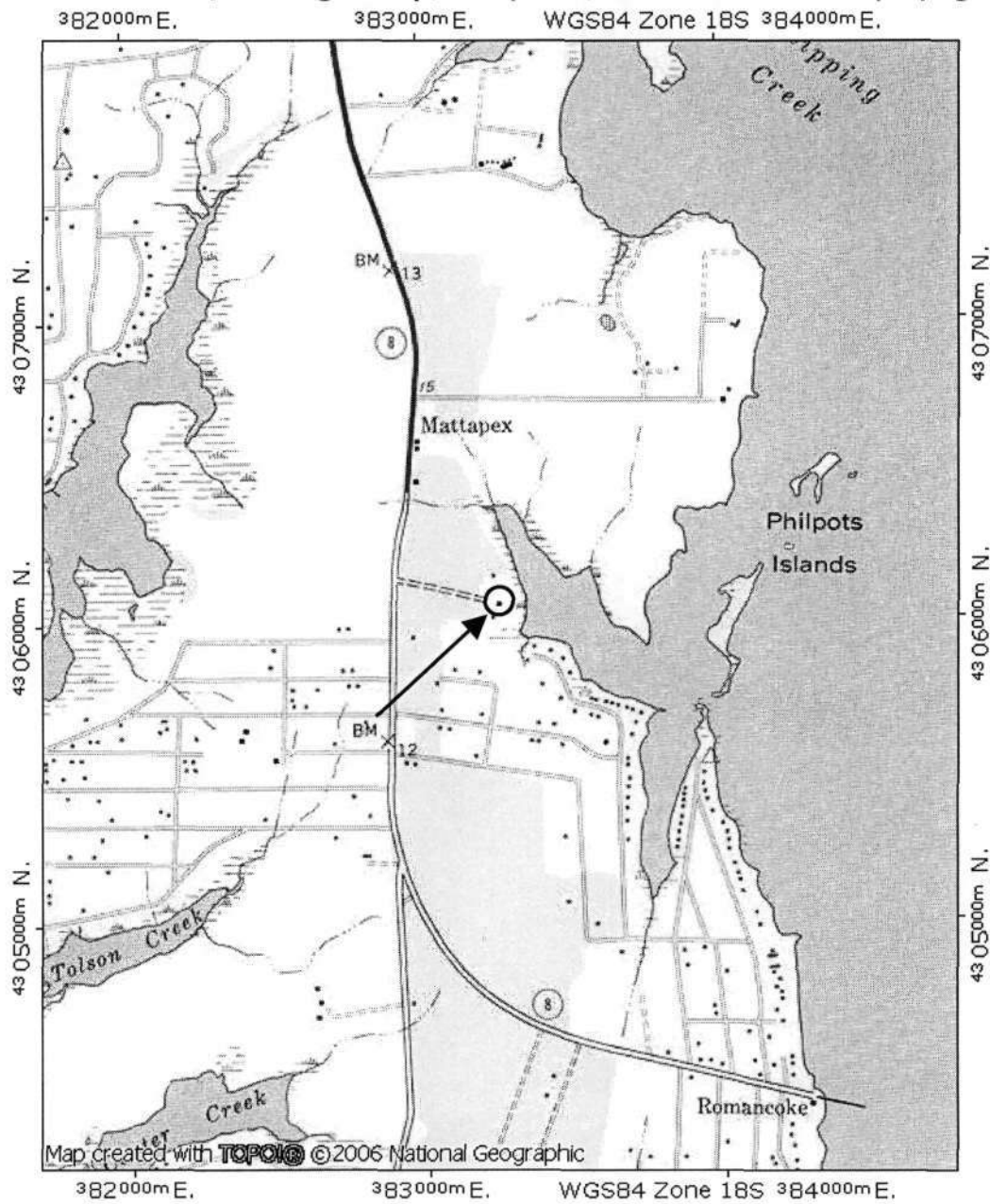
112 Laird Benton Rd.

N ←



Site Plan
QA—592
Bullen-Keller House
112 Laird Benton Road
Stevensville vicinity
Queen Anne's County, Maryland

USGS Kent Island Quadrangle Map, Maryland, 7.5 Minute Series (Topographic)



QA-592
Bullen-Keller House
112 Laird Benton Road
Stevensville vicinity
Queen Anne's County

0.0 0.5 1.0 miles
 0.0 0.5 1.0 1.5 km

MN T
 11½°
 05/09/07



QA-592

BULLEN-KELLER HOUSE

112 LAIRD BENTON RD, STEVENSVILLE

QUEEN ANNE'S CO, MD

HISTORY MATTERS, LLC

4/2007

MD SHPO

FACADE OF HOUSE, SMOKE HOUSE + GARAGE - LOOKING EAST

1 of 4



QA-592

BULLEN-KELLER HOUSE

112 LAIRD BENTON RD., STEVENSVILLE

QUEEN ANNE'S CO., MD

HISTORY MATTERS, LLC

4/2007

MD SHPO

REAR (EAST) ELEVATION, LOOKING NORTHWEST

2 of 4



QA-592
BULLEN-KELLER HOUSE
112 LAIRD BENTON RD., STEVENSVILLE
QUEEN ANNE'S CO., MD
HISTORY MATTERS, LLC
4/2007
MD SHPO
SMOKEHOUSE, LOOKING SOUTH EAST
3 of 4



QA-592
BULLEN-KELLER HOUSE
112 LAIRD BENTON RD, STEVENSVILLE
QUEEN ANNE'S CO., MD
HISTORY MATTERS, LLC
4/2007
MD SHPO
GARAGE, LOOKING SOUTHWEST
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